

A Righteous Rant & a Scathing Rebuke

Matthew 23:1-39; Deuteronomy 18:15-19

I. THE ROLE OF THE PROPHET (Dt 18:15-19)

A. **Rebuking**—*confront with sin and call to repent* (Elijah, John the Baptist)

B. **Foretelling**—*predict the future* (Isaiah)

C. **Lamenting**—*mourn over sin and judgment* (Jeremiah)

II. THE SIN OF HYPOCRISY—the scathing rebuke

A. **Self-Important**—*sitting in Moses' seat*

1. **To Lord It over Others** ()—Bind and lay heavy burdens on others (bossy)

2. **To Be Seen by Men** ()—ungodly motive: seeking human praise rather than God's

a. **The Place of Honor**—seated by social status in the synagogue and at feasts

b. **The Costume of Righteousness**—fringes and phylacteries

c. **The Recognition of a Title**—rabbi, teacher and father, etc...

B. **Insincere** (Isa 29:13)—*lip service, not heart or action; not real*

1. **A Double Standard**—they don't practice what they preach

2. **A Deceptive Appearance** ()—they aren't what they seem

a. **Outward Façade of Righteousness**—look good on the outside

b. **Inward Corruption of Character**—greed, self-indulgence, lawlessness

C. **Misleading**—*blind guides*

1. **Leading away from Salvation**—shut the kingdom of heaven in people's faces

2. Teaching **Legalism** as Righteousness—straining gnats and swallowing camels
 - a. **Technicalities of Swearing** ()—loopholes in verbal accountability
 - b. **Tithing of Herbs and Spices** ()—majoring on minors
 - c. **Neglecting Matters of Importance** ()—justice, mercy, faithfulness

D. **Persecuting** (Mat 5:11-12)—Monument-Builders and Prophet-Killers

1. Claim to honor the prophets of the past
2. Don't listen to what the prophets said
3. Persecute the prophets of their own generation

III. **THE LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM** (37-39)

A. **The Loving Heart of God** (2 Chr 36:15-19)

1. He has been **so patient**. (Ps 78:36-38) Prophet after prophet, warning after warning
2. He longs to **gather**. Like a hen gathers her chicks; desire to nurture and protect
3. He **weeps to punish**. (Jer 13:15-17)
→If we can pronounce judgment on a sinner without weeping, maybe we are not in tune with the heart of the God we claim to represent.

B. **The Stubborn Heart of Unrepentance** (Isa 30:15-18)

1. God is **eager to forgive and bless**.
2. We are the ones who **refuse to have it**.
 - a. Pride refuses to repent.
 - b. Pride rejects the Savior.

C. **The Desolate House of Israel** (35, 36, 38)—*destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD*

1. There is no salvation or fruitfulness apart from Jesus Christ.
2. If you reject the Only Savior, you invite destruction.

3. **The Last Word Of Hope** (39; Zec 12:10; Rom 11)—*until you say*

1. The Jewish identity was not lost.
2. Israel is a nation again.
3. The story is not over!